

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COA-01 INT-05 RSC-01 /015 W

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R 081529Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 930

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, ZA

SUBJECT: WILDLIFE CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

REF: STATE 245158

1. APPRECIATE STATUS REPORT ON WCI/AWLF MERGER PLANS AND GROUP'S VIEW OF INTERESTS IN ZAMBIA BUT FEEL IT INADVISABLE FOR EMBASSY TO MAKE INFORMAL APPROACH SUGGESTED PARA 5 REFTEL AS LAWYER MARTIN HAS MATTER FIRMLY IN HAND. MOREOVER, GRZ IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE ON VERGE OF FAVORABLE DECISION REGARDING MANAGEMENT CONTRACT OFFER IT INTENDS MAKE TO WCI. ALSO MARTIN TELLS US IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME (PERHAPS MANY MONTHS) FOR RELEASE OF WCI FROM ZAMBEZI PARK COMMITMENT TO COME THROUGH BECAUSE OF COMPLICATED BUREAUCRATIC ROUTE TO BE FOLLOWED. MINISTRY OF LANDS, PARLIAMENT AND PRESIDENT ALL INVOLVED IN ORIGINAL APPROVAL. MARTIN HAS WRITTEN FULL EXPLANATION TO SULLIVAN.

2. QUESTION OF POSSIBLE WCI WITHDRAWAL FROM BANGWEULU PROJECT (NOTE THIS IS A MANAGEMENT CONTRACT NOT RPT NOT A LEASE) DISCUSSED INFORMALLY WITH PETER MILLER OF ZAMBIAN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY. HE IS DISTRESSED AS ARE WE AT PROSPECTS WCI MAY REFUSE GRZ COUNTER-PROPOSAL. WE BOTH FEEL MUCH GOOD COULD BE DONE FOR HOST COUNTRY AND FOR OVERALL US INTERESTS HERE.

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3. WE BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE ADVISABLE AT THIS STAGE FOR SULLIVAN AND MCILVAINE OF AWLF TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF MCILVAINE COMING TO LUSAKA FROM NAIROBI PERHAPS WITH WCI'S TECHNICAL ADVISOR OWENS FOR A CAREFUL LOOK AT ZAMBIAN DRAFT COUNTER PROPOSAL BEFORE FINAL DECISION TO REFUSE TAKEN.

4. FOR NAIROBI: REQUEST CONTENTS REFTEL AND THIS TELEGRAM BE DISCUSSED WITH MCILVAINE AND HIS REACTION COMMUNICATED TO WASHINGTON.

5. FOR WASHINGTON: REQUEST DESK AWAIT NAIROBI'S REPLY WITH CONTRIBUTION FROM MCILVAINE BEFORE CONTACTING SULLIVAN REGARDING REACTION OF EMBASSY LUSAKA AND MCILVAINE.
WILKOWSKI

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